



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

SEMOLOGICAL NOTES ON OLD SCAND. *FLÍK* AND
DERIVED FORMS IN THE MODERN SCAN-
DINAVIAN DIALECTS

The modern Scandinavian dialects are characterised in a preeminent degree by their wealth of secondary formations and the ease with which new words may be coined by some new combination of already existing linguistic materials. On the formal side it may be a new combination of stem and suffix or a new variation of stem-vowel. Or the change may be purely semological,¹ as by the new application of an old word or morpheme. Or, what is more common perhaps, the new morpheme has a new meaning attached to it, has been formed to convey this new meaning. These processes have of course, been active in all periods of the language, but the principles and tendencies they represent would seem in a special degree, to be part of the life of the Scandinavian dialects today. Especially are Norwegian and Swedish dialects full of such derived elements; in one dialect one stem has been especially fruitful, in another locality some other stem or group of stems, thus giving color and character to the local vernacular. Just how recent any particular formation is it might be difficult to say in the present state of dialect study; and still more difficult would it be perhaps to fix the time of origin of some new meaning. But it is clear that he would often be very much at loss who would etymologise these words on the basis of early Germanic material. It may perfectly well be also that a word which formally suggests a foreign source is to be explained as a secondary formation according to some characteristic tendency in a particular dialect or locality.

Morphologically and semologically the stem *flík* exhibits types of word-formation and meaning development that are representative of a large class of stems in the Scandinavian languages. The following pages are intended as a small contribution to the study of these phenomena as exhibited in O. Scand. *flík* and its later representatives. I shall list first briefly

¹ I adopt this form from Noreen in preference to the cumbersome 'semasiological'.

the principal occurrences within each of the four Scandinavian languages. In view of the extent of the material suffixal formations in verbs will be included only where it seems desirable to show the presence of the meaning, and further in some cases of characterising personal nouns derived from verbs. Under the latter group the inclusions will as a rule be limited to feminines with the feminine formant *-a* and to masculines in *-e*.

The words in question belong within the first ablaut-row: Germanic *i-ai-i-i*, O. N. *i-æi-i-i*. The stem has a single consonant, hence the 3d (4th) vowel had in O. Scand. short vowel + short consonant. Among the later changes that will affect the derivatives are to be noted East Scand. *ei* > *ē* and the lengthening of the syllable of the short vowel forms. The lengthening of *k* between a short vowel and *j*, which had taken place in Old Norse and in Old Swedish before 900 (Noreen. *Altn. Gr.* § 269, *Altschw. Gr.* 239), increased the possible variations to include also *ik* : *ikkj*. Thus were established in the group this new ablaut as a model that operated, alongside of the ablaut *ī* : *ei* (E. Scand. *ī* : *ē*), and *ī* : *i*, in the formation of new words. But open short vowel became depatalised to *e* in Swedish, principally in the 14th century, Kock, *Svensk Ljudhistoria*, I, § 29, a change which also took place in Norwegian. The subsequent lengthening of the short vowel before a single consonant would then produce the ablaut: *ī* : *ē*. In some cases the consonant was lengthened before the date of vocalic lengthening, producing the ablaut *ī* : *ē* + long consonant by the side of *ī* : *i* + long consonant inherited from Old Scandinavian times.

1. Icelandic Occurrences: *Flik*, f. *flíka*, f. 'a piece of cloth, loose end of a garment'. Modn. Icel. *flik*, f. 'en dug, et gammelt slidt klædebon'; *flíka*, vb. udspænde, udstrække som et seil; prale med (Jónsson, *Oldn. Ordb.*), *flíka*, vb. 'negligenter tractare' (Halderson), *flik*, f. 'mulier impudica' (Hald.), *flíka*, vb. bære noget til skue (Thorkelsson), and *flíka*, make a display (Zoega). The meaning developments of this group will be discussed below, § 5. With these words is to be compared O. Ic. *flekka*, f. 'klædeplagg', whose meaning suggests

that the formation is Icelandic, hence < *flikja. On *flekkr*, 'spot', *Flikki*, 'flæskestykke', with long k from Germanic, see Falk and Torp *Etym. Ordb.* under *flesk* and *flekk*.

The Shetland dialect (Norn) seems to have only the derived form *flikr*, var. *fliker*, vb. which Jakobsen defines: 1, 'være i urolig, vimsende bevægelse', and in transferred meaning, both transitive and intransitive, 'käle, smiske, fjase, gantes', and with secondary ablaut *flaker*, vb. 'drive kälne løier, fjase'.¹ Cp. also Swedish *flikra* below.

2. Norwegian Occurrences: All three vowels—*i*, *æi*, *i*—are represented, the distribution covering a wide range of dialects. The vowel *i* appears in *flik*, f. and *flikja* f. 'gabende saar' (Telemarken); *flike*, do (Nedenäs and E. Norw.); *flik* vb. 'gabe' (Ryfylke, Tel. Vald). Also *flik*, m. and *flikja*, f. 'en som gaar flikjen', with clothes open, loose, would seem regularly to have the long vowel in central and western Norway, hence belongs here. *Flike*, *flikje* and *flikju*, f. 'forfløien kvinde', (Vestfold, Romerike, Hedem.) apparently are also long-vowel forms in some dialects. The occurrences with the diphthong are almost wholly confined to the province of Trondhjem. They are: *fleikja*, vb. 1, 'om kläder, gabe, böie sig ud, staa noget aaben', as *kraagaan fleikje*, the collar is open, hangs loose, *dä fleikje in paa vesten*, 'der er en aabning saa man ser vesten' (Ross, 183); 2, 'gaa med gabende kläder'; 3, föite, flane', vb. (adj. *fleikjen*, *fleikjutt*, 'flanevorn'), meaning cited from Innherred; and *fleikja*, f. 'en flane, flams', gadabout, flirt, cited from Stjor.

Original short vowel is represented in a number of words, partly exhibiting depalatalisation of original open *i* to *e*, partly also with the vowel *i*, due either to retention of open *i* locally in such cases or the reappearance of *i* by influence of the *i*-vowel forms. In Hallingdal occur *fleka* and *fika*, vb. in the meaning: 'kjäle, smigre, indsmigre sig', the corresponding vb. being *flikra* in Bergenhus; cp. also *flikramaona*, 'bygynnelsen af et ägteskab' (North Bergenhus); *flika*, var. *fleka*, *fläka* (c. e. Norw. and elsewhere), 1, 'grine'; 2, vrikke med kroppen glad eller indyndende sig'; 3, 'kjäle'; 4, 'smidske,

¹ *Etymologisk Ordbog over det norrøne Sprog på Shetland*, p. 173.

sledske, indynde sig ved bagtalelse, sladdre'; *fläkje*, vb. Söndmöre), and *flikje*, vb. (Gudbrandsdalen and elsewhere), 'väre slap eller buget i kanten; om kläder og sko, hvis kanter ikke rigtig slutte til' (Aasen); *fleekast*, vb. (Gudb.) 'fjase, gan-tast, kjäle' (Ross), *fleekablü*, adj. (Gudb. Hedem.), *fläka-blü* (do, and Smaal.) 'smidskeblid', var. *fläkkeblü*. Here be-longs also a group of words with the combination *ekkj* < *ekj* < *ikj*, as: *flekkja*, vb. 1, to grin, (Trond. Gudbr.), 2, make fun of (no. and sw. N.), 3, 'fare høit og lavt, føite om', and refl. 'slænge sig'; *flekkj*, 'grinen, haanen, haanende spas'; *flekkjar*, m. 'mandfolk som er for familiær mod kvinder, ogsaa smidsker, sledsker' (< vb. **flekkja*). Finally *flika* (Valders), var. *fleka*, vb. said of the thawing away of snow in spots, where the ground thus becomes bare, clearly belongs here. *Flikka*, f. 'lap paa sko' (Ross, sw. Norw.) may be from Ger-man *flicken* but is more likely a native formation.

3. Swedish Occurrences: Forms with the first vowel are not evidenced in Old or Middle Swedish; from the extensive use of *flik* in mdn. Sw. we may assume the existence of the word *flik* for Middle Age Swedish. The earliest occurrence of this long-vowel form of which I am aware is in the Bible of 1541, from which *flijk* and *flijken* are cited by Kock, *Svensk Ljudhistoria*, p. 82. Ihre defines *flik* 'lacinia, lapp, stycke' (*Glossarium Svio-Gothicum*, 1769). From the unpublished ex-cerpts on *flik* in the dictionary of the Swed.¹ Acad. the follow-ing may be noted: *flikja*, vb. 'patch, repair', occurs for the year 1697 in *Växjö rådsturätts protokoll*, p. 273: *som ingen thera i medlertijd något nytt huss bygt, uthen dhe gamble flijkat och reparerat*'. The long vowel precludes the possibility of loan from L. G. *flicken*; in *Tisilius Vätter*, 115, year 1723, the noun *flijk* occurs in the following passage: *siälfa Fiskevärket be-står först af Laxhuset eller Flijken, hvilken är ett mörkt huus öfver Strömmen bygd*. The range of meanings became still more widened in mdn. Sw. The usual meaning is 'end or cor-ner of a garment, lappet', then more generally 'piece'. The stem is found in dialectal use as follows: *flik*, f. 1, kjortel (Härj, Dalarne); 2, 'kläde om halsen, halsduk' (Härj.); 3,

¹ Which were placed at my disposal during a stay in Lund through the kindness of Dr. Otto Hoppe, Revising Editor of the Dictionary.

'ficka pa en rock' (Västerg. Smål.) ; *flika*, vb. 'spänne ut, böja sig ut' (Kalmar) ; *flika* av, 'hastigt afkläda', *flika skjortan af någon*, *flika kläderna af sig* (Finland). It would seem that also *flik*, f. 'lättsinnig flika', Kalmar belongs here, as the original short-vowel form would rather have given *flek* in this dialect.

As to whether any of the *e*-vowel forms represent original *ei* is uncertain. *Fleka*, vb. 'smeka, klappa' (Värm.) may be so explained, and hence corresponds to N. d. *fleikja*, vb. 'föite, flane'. But as older *flika* would also appear as *fleka* (long *e* by modn. lengthening), the phonological test is lacking. *Fläka* in *fläka av sig kläderna*, Dic. Sw. Acad. for 1728, may also belong here. If the spelling indicates the pronunciation *fläka* we should have a case of the change *e* > *ä* (see Kock, *Sv. Ljudh.* pp. 146-147), whereas older *e* (< *i*) should rather appear as *ē*.

Forms with original short vowel appear as follows: Söderwall¹ cites *flickra*, vb. 'ställa sig in, smickra', *flickrare*, 'smickrare' (*Konunga Styrilse*, 51, 60, 116) ; *fliker*, n. 'smicker', *med flickre fara*, *Kon. Styr.* 73 ; cp. Shetland *fliker* and Norw. d. *flikra* above. Dic. Sw. Acad. gives the word *flikrachtighet* for 1628, illustrating the use of the word by the following citation ; *han vthi sitt Taal är betänckeligh och alffwarsam. Vthi gånga stadigh och longsam ; Vthi klädebonad sparsam och måtteligh : Så at vthi alt thetta icke må finnas någhon flärd eller flikrachtighet* (L. Paulenius Gothus, Mon 269) ; the meaning is 'vanity, frivolity'. The more original concrete sense is illustrated in the following citation for the year 1671 : *med rumpan flickrade han (hunden) moot wägg, Reyncke Foss*, p. 438, with suffixal *r* in iterative function ; cp. Eng. *flicker*. East Norw. *flika*, vb. 'vrikke med kroppen,' cited above, is to be compared also ; it may be observed in this connection that derived forms in *-r* are especially numerous in Swedish dialects, something that is already illustrated by the cited derived forms of the morpheme *flik*. The consonant group *kr* would preserve the brevity of the preceding short

¹ *Ordbok öfver svenska medeltidsspråket.*

vowel and the combination *ikkr* would arise; and the ablaut relation *ik: ikk*.

Sw. *flickra* was formed in Old Swedish times on the basis of the stem *flik*, originally as an intransitive verb which later also came to be used transitively, just as formations in *-a* or *-ja*, which were formed principally from the long syllable stems (original *ī* or *eī*), might assume intransitive function. The modn. dial. form of the word is *flikkär*. vb. 'gäckas, göra narr af' (Jemtland). The corresponding noun in the same dialect is given by Rietz as *flekker*, n. 'gäckeri, gyckel, upptåg, skämt'. The immediate antecedents of the latter are *fleker* < *fliker*, with lowering *i* > *e* in open syllable, a change that was prevented in *flickra*. The form of the noun in northern Swedish dialects, *flikker*, 'gyckel, skämt' (Medelpad, Ångermanland), 'smicker' (Hälsingl.), is explainable by the fact that in these dialects original short *i* in open syllable remains; see Hesselman, *Sveamålen*, 19, *Flekja*, 'girl' (Smål. d.) seems to belong here, unless we are to assume original *e* < *ei*, in which case it is to be paralleled with Norw. d. *fleikja*, see above. Variant forms of *flekja* in the same dialect are: *flekka*, and *flekkesa*, both apparently meaning 'girl', are not used with derogatory signification; cp., however, *fläka*, 'lättsinnigt fruntimmer, som vill vara grann och går barhalsad' (Småland). *Flekkesa* is evidently a comparatively recent diminutive of *flekka*. With *flekka* and *fläka* cp. *vekka*, beside *veka*, and compounds, *vekko-dag*, *vekko-räkning*, *lort-vekka*, and *vekka*, 'vicka, guppa, springa vaggande som ett barn', *vekker*, and *vikker*, 'litet barn' with *veka*, O. Sw. *vika*, *vikja*.

With these personal nouns is to be grouped also early mdn. Sw. *flik*, 'girl', cited for 1652 in Dic. Sw. Acad.; *spittelske flik och dreng och til proof visitation i Yomala* (*Murenus Acta visit*, 249). The corresponding verb and the derived meanings will be discussed below. In *flik*, f. the stem of the verb (*flika*, *flikja*), has been employed with reference to persons as a descriptive noun, at first without the symbol of gender *-a*. In *flekja* and *flekka* the stem has gotten the feminine suffix attached to it. Cp. further O. Ic. *flík*, f. from the long-vowel form, and No. d. *flekkja*, vb. and *flætkj*, f. 'en som haagriner ad alt', variant *flekkja*, f. See further below.

Finally, lit. Sw. *flicka*, 'girl', also clearly belongs here. I shall first summarise earlier expressions with regard to the origin of this word. Tamm *Sv. Etym. Ordb.* says: *av osäkert ursprung; näppeligen bildat av ett gammalt svenskt *flydh = isl. fljóð, n. 'kvinna, viv', troligen icke håller, aldenstund redan* Lex. Linc. 1640, *har flicka utan spår till j, att förklara av ett äldre *flickia, som skulle bero på lt. flitje, 'ung flicka' (t. 'Backfisch'), 'grannt utstyrt, lätt fruntimmer'*. He thereupon suggests as a possible explanation the L. G. *flicke*, borrowed in the meaning 'stykke, lapp', used as a term of endearment and therefore formed like Sw. *stumpa*, 'little girl'.

Tamm's citations of the Icelandic *fljóð* in connection with *flicka* was perhaps suggested by Ihre's derivation, *Glossarium Sviogothicum*, p. 499; Ihre regarded *flicka* as a diminutive of *fljóð* with consonantal assimilation of *ðk* to *kk*. In this explanation of *flicka* from a stem with a dental Ihre is followed by Rietz, *Sv. Dial. Lex.* p. 147, in the article on the dialectal *flikja*, 'girl'. To this derivation Sophus Bugge objected that we have no evidence that *fljóð* was ever used in Swedish or Danish (*Arkiv*, IV, 118). The second possible source which Tamm mentions, but also waives, namely that *flicka* may be from L. G. *flitje*, was first offered by Rydqvist, *Svenska Språkets Lagar*, III, 277. Rydqvist was led to look for a foreign source for the word by reason of the absence of the word in early Swedish, it not being found in the oldest Swedish dictionary of 1587 he was also influenced by the fact that *flicka* was especially characteristic of the capital and the dialect of the surrounding region and limited in its occurrence in genuine dialect speech. But both Munch, in *Det norske Folks Historie, fjerde Del*, II, 601, and Erik Brate later turned to native material in the attempt to account for the origin of the word. Munch derived *flicka* from *fylgjukona*, 'concubine', assuming unrounding of the vowel and metathesis, a change that he found paralleled in the Norwegian place name *Flikkshaug* from *Fylkishaugh* (in Vestre Toten). Both on formal and semological accounts this derivation is unsatisfactory. Brate would refer *flicka* to O. Sw. *flyð-kona* (= O.

N. *fljóð-kona*) through the intermediate *flykka*¹ (*Äldre Vestmannalagens Ljudlära*, 21). But Sophus Bugge's exception is well taken that the compound *fljóðkona* is Old Icelandic and poetic, we cannot assume that it was used in Sweden; we cannot assume that it belonged to every-day prose even in Iceland. (See the word in Fritzner and Hægstad-Torp).

I believe that *flicka*, 'girl', has its source in the native stem *flik* and that it has been formed as similar personal nouns have been formed in considerable number elsewhere in Scandinavian speech. Semologically the word falls in a group of personal nouns that exhibit similar phenomena of meaning development, as will be shown below. Formally the word *flicka* would seem to be a regular development, or at any rate a characteristic development, in the dialect of Uppland. Rydqvist was right when he said that *flicka* belonged especially to Stockholm and the dialects thereabouts, even though the word does not seem to be so limited in its distribution elsewhere as he assumed (see the word in its various forms in Rietz). Hesselman has shown in his *Sveamålen och de svenska Dialekternas Inddelning*, p. 19, that original short *i* in open stressed syllable has not changed to a more open syllable in the dialect of Uppland if the following syllable had *i* or *u* originally; hence here the regular equivalent of O. Sw. *vika*, oblique case *viku*, is *vikku*. Hesselman also shows, *Sveamålen*, p. 36, that Uppland Swedish agrees with Northern Swedish dialects in that the consonant (not the vowel as usually in Sw. d.) is lengthened in originally short syllable in certain cases, and he cites *bek* > *bekk* as representative of the northern pronunciation. Kock, *Sv. Ljudh*, §§ 32-37, offers significant material illustrative of the operation of the law *i* > *e* in open syllable in early Swedish; we find that it operates variously in different localities and that it fails to operate in certain words. We also find that by the influence of analogy *e*-vowel forms exist side by side as also short-consonant forms and long-consonant forms. The word *vecka*, 'week' is a case

¹ Similar reduction of *kona* > *ka*, when the word appears as the second element in a compound, is found in e. g. the Swedish dialect word: *bilka*, 'aunt', < *bilkna* < *bilkona*. (Rietz). See also Hellquist: *Den nordiska Nominalbildningen*, p. 65.

in point. Kock cites the form *vicka* (*wicke*, Svart Krön, 13, 31; *wickor*, Runius II, 60; Tegner *vicka* sometimes) which he accounts for as a case of lengthening of the *k*, before the *i* became *e*, partly in compounds like *vikudagher*, partly in compounds like *dymbilvika* and from these the form *vicka* arose. It is quite possible that *flicka* is in part due to its occurrence in such compounds; it is just the kind of a word that must frequently have entered into compounds both as first and second element. Cp. *Löpareflicka*, *Växjö D. K. Arkiv*, 225, year 1676, and modn. Sw. *småflickor*, *flickslyna*, *flickslänga*, *flicktassa*, etc. But for the dialect of Uppland the long consonant does not constitute an irregularity; we should expect *flekka* and *flikku* (see above), and, assuming that these two forms existed, *flikku* established itself as *vikku* by the preponderance of the oblique case form over the nominative, and partly through the preponderance of the *i*-vowel in the whole group of words. Sw. *flicka*, I believe, goes back to the verbal stem *flick* from which was formed the descriptive personal noun *fika*, by the side of which there was the variant *fikja*; on the meaning of these derivatives see below. The word goes back at least to the 16th century, the earliest citation for it in Dic. Sw. Acad. is for 1591. It came into High Swedish from the Uppland dialect. The final vowel *-a* of *flicka* established itself over against the *-u* of *flikku* by the influence of the tendency of personal substantives of the feminine gender regularly to assume the ending *-a* as the symbol of gender.

4. Danish Occurrences: There is O. Dan. *flike*, n. 'et afhugget stykke' (Kalkar), mdn. Dan. *flig*, 'lap, hjørne, den yderste spids; stykke af et klædebon'; Jutland d. *flig*, 'den yderste spids af noget'. Vowel and consonant of *flæg*, n. 1, sladder, 2, driver, 'et doven person', (Jutland), suggest the vowel *ē* originally. The corresponding verb *flæge* is defined by Feilberg: 'ordet synes at indholde forestillingen om noget der gøres ligegyldigt, dovent, uordentligt; go o flæg, være uordentlig i klæder, skabe sig som halvtosset; flege', vb. (dial. of Darrum, Ribe), is further defined: to hang lose, flutter, as *klæderne fleger om ham saa aabent og løst*. Cp. Norw. d. *fleikja* above. Original short vowel + short consonant gives

the form *fleja*, vb. 'flika, sitta löst och nedhängande, t. ex. om en klädesflik eller qvinlig hufvudbonad' cited by Rietz for Skåne.¹ The noun *flej*, f. 'flik, klädesflik'. would seem to be from the verb *fleja*, and not the verb from *flej* as suggested by Rietz. The change *ig* > *ej*, *ige* > *eje* appears also in *fleijh*, c. 'patch' (Kok, *Det danske Folkesprog i Sønderjylland*, p. 92). The following derived forms in *-r* may be noted: *flegre*, vb. 'smigre, sledske for en', *flegrer*, 'smigrer' (Molbeck); *flegr*, *flægr*, adj. 'hykkelsk, falsk, sledsk'; *flægr*, vb. 'slynges frem og tilbage'.

In the above survey only the representatives of the original ablaut row have been included. The many suffixal derivatives and forms with secondary ablaut exhibiting most of the meaning developments of the primary stems as well as other derived meanings have not been considered.²

5. The basic meaning of the whole group of words that we are considering would seem to have been 'an opening, a gap;' from it all the other sememes that *flik* or derivatives exhibit should be capable of explanation. At the same time it will be clear that this need not have been the only or even perhaps the usual sememe associated with the morpheme *flik* in O. Scand. Of the point of departure of a new use of the word either in time or locality we can know very little. The morphemes in question may have had many meanings in Old Scand. times that have not been recorded in literature, and clearly also certain derived forms appearing only late in literature or only recorded by dialect investigators of today may have been in use a very long time. And yet it seems probable that the majority of the words in question belong distinctly to the modern dialects.

The meaning 'opening gap' is found in the following cases: Norw. d. *flik*, f. 'gabende saar', *flikja*, vb. 'gabe', *fleikja*,

¹Original Danish territory and dialectically South Scandinavian (Danish) today.

²Anyone familiar at all with Norwegian and Swedish dialects will readily call to mind secondary formations of this sort. Illustrative material for Germanic has been collected in *A Semasiological Differentiation in Germanic Secondary Ablaut* by Leonard Bloomfield, Chicago, 1909.

vb. 'gabe, bøie sig ud, staa noget aaben'; Dan. *flykke*, tr. vb. 'rive huden i stykker', Sw. *flik*, 'a cut, a bruise'. From this as the point of departure the meaning development might be in two directions; by way of the transitive vb. (cp. *flika*, 'skjære skiver af noget', No. d.) there took place a transference of the morpheme *flik* from the opening, gap, or cut, to that which was severed from the rest by the act of cutting; cp. mdn. Eng. 1, to cut, 2, 'a cut, a slit, a wound' and 3, a 'cut' of meat. Thus arose the group of words represented by O. N. *flikki*, 'a large piece of meat', O. N. *fleik*, 'segmentum', Norw. d. *flekkja*, 'skinke', O. Sw. *flikki*, O. Dan. *flykke*, 'a flitch of bacon', O. Dan. *flike*, 'et afhugget stykke'. Norw. d. *flika*, f. 'en af-skaaren skive', and vb. *flika*, 'skjære skiver af noget'.

The starting point of the second meaning development was the intransitive vb. *flika*, as represented in Norw. d. *fleikja*, 'staa noget aaben, bøie sig ud', and *flækje*, (var. *flikje*), 'være slap eller buget i kanten'. In this meaning the vb. came to be used: 1, of clothes worn open, loose, 'gabende' and 2, of doors that are standing partly open, ajar, e. g., N. d. *fliikjen*, adj. 'med aabne klæder' *flikje* and *flækje*, vb. 'om klæder og sko hvis kanter ikke rigtig slutte til' (Aasen); *kraagaan fleikje*, *døra fliikje ifraa*. With the sememe 'open, ajar', others as 'loose, flapping, dangling, slamming' easily come to associate themselves, as in Dan. *klæderne flæger om ham saa aabent og løst*, as N. d. *fleikja*, and the verbs that belong here mean both 'be open' and 'hang loose', or 'stand open' and 'be slamming', as the same word applied to a door. Then by a further transference the verb comes to mean 'move back and forth, flutter', and a verbal noun, 'the moving back and forth' and finally the descriptive noun 'that which moves back and forth, flutters, hangs loose' come into use. This stage in the meaning development is represented by the corresponding long-vowel noun in its most usual meaning, as O. N. *flik*, f. 'loose end of a garment', Sw. *flik*, 'lacinia', Dan. *flig*, 'den yderste spids af noget' etc. Then the noun is generalised to 'piece of a garment', (O. N. *flik* and *flika*, f., N. d. *flik*), or comes to be used of a particular garment, as Sw. d. *flik*, 'kjortel, halsduk', O. N. *flekka*, 'et slags klædningsstykke'. Or the gen-

eralisation is to 'piece, patch'; cp. Dan. *flæg*, 'piece of cloth', (also chip of wood), Dan. d. *fleij*, 'patch', N. d. *flikka*, f. 'lap paa sko', and finally to 'piece, portion', as the modn. Sw. *flik*. The verb *flika* would from the first be partly iterative in signification and this meaning might come to be emphasised, as Norw. d. *flika*, 'vrikke med kroppen', or more commonly with suffixal -r, which appears in a large group of dial. words as the suffixal symbol of iteration; cp. Norw. d. *flikra*, 'gjøre smaa bevægelser frem og tilbage', Shetland Norn *flikr*, 'være i urolig vimsende bevægelse', Sw. *hunden flickrade med rumpan*, cit. from year 1671, etc.

Now the vb. *flika*, in the sense of 'moving back and forth', said of the garment, might come to be used of the person so wearing his garments, as in Norw. d. *gaa flikjen* and *flikja*, 'walk with open, fluttering clothes', *fleikja*, 'gaa med ga-bende klæder', from which arises then the personal noun *flik*, 'one who goes about with open, fluttering clothes'. It is in this neutral meaning that we must look for the source of a considerable number of such descriptive personal nouns. In the majority of cases such nouns will be either endearing or derogatory in meaning. That is a part of their original signification; they were used first either as terms of endearment, or to express disapproval of some personal characteristic. As a term of endearment the word might be coined by the lover; but probably in the majority of cases personal nouns with endearing meaning were originally applied to the child. And in so far as such endearing epithets were formed from some verb they were descriptive of the characteristic acts or ways of the child (children). This is the origin of such Swedish words for child as: *dikka*, m. 'barn som springer fram och tillbaka' from vb. *dikka*, 'löpa efter'; *kutte*, m. 'liten gosse', *kytta*, f. 'liten flicka', from vb. *kuta*, 'springa'; *larv*, m. 'litet barn', *larva*, f. 'liten flicka om två eller tre års alder' from *larva*, vb. 'springa smått och illa'; *pallta*, f. 'liten stultande flicka', from *pallta*, 'gå ieh stullta såsom ett litet barn'; *strutt*, m. 'liten gosse', *strutta*, f. 'liten flicka', from *strutta*, 'hoppa omkring'; *trant*, m. 'liten pojke', from *tranta*, 'småspringa.' Here belongs also Sw. *flicka*, 'girl', which as all the evidence indi-

cates, was originally used in the sense 'little girl'. A corresponding morpheme and sememe in Norw. d. appears in *flikja*, f. 'a girl who goes about with open fluttering clothes', but is used for the adult girl and has suffered degeneration in meaning. It may be that *flikja* in this Norw. dialect, was originally so used. The meanings of most of the nouns formed from *flik* are derogatory in signification and have therefore originally been used of grown persons. Sw. *flicka*, however, has purely a good meaning; it represents a transference of meaning from 'little girl' to 'young girl' and lastly to 'girl' in a purely good sense, a development which was made possible by the fact that the word was no longer associated with the words of the group that had derogatory sense. The extension in meaning to include also 'grown girl' took place early, and the derogatory sense is evidenced now and then in the citations of the word in the Dic. Sw. Acad. In time *flicka* entirely displaced the older word *piga*.

But the verb *flika*, 'walk about in open, loose or fluttering garments', and *flik* or *flika*, as the corresponding personal noun, might very easily deteriorate in meaning; the change was brought about in part by the influence of other verbs and characterizing nouns of the same group which already had acquired or were acquiring derogatory sense; cp. for example, Sw. d. *flåka*, f. 'lättsinnigt fruntimmer, som vill vara grann och går barhalsad'. The various sememes that operated toward this result were: 'to walk back and forth', 'go about aimlessly, wander', 'go about for the sake of displaying one's finery', 'go gadding about', etc., cp.: N. d. *fleikja*, vb. 'go gadding about, flirt'; *flike*, var. *flikje*, *flikju*, f. and *fleikja*, f. 'a giddy girl, a coquette'; N. d. *flekkja*, '1, fare høit og lavt, 2, føite'; Dan. *flægger*, m. 'person som sladder', *flæg*, 'sladder' (Jutland). Here *flika*, has gone exactly the way of Dan. Norw. *flane*, which is defined in *Dansk Vid. Ordb.*: 'en person som er ustadig, taabelig og fremfusende i sin adfærd; men bruges almindeligst om et fruentimmer, som i lader, tale opførsel, eller klædedragt viser sig altfor fræk og flygtig'.

Another development is represented especially by a Dan-

ish group of words. *Flege*, said of clothes hanging open and loose about one, also comes to mean 'være uordentlig i klæder'. Cp. from the same dialect (Jutland) the derivatives *flæg*, m. 'en doven person', and *flæge*, f. 'en dvask kvinde', which are derived from the vb. *flæge*, of whose meaning Fellberg says: *ordet synes at indholde forestilingen om noget der gøres ligegyldigt, dovent, uordentligt*. The vb. *flæge* thus combines in it the two sememes 'slovenly' and 'lazy', the latter having become associated with the former in the use of the word; in the noun the latter meaning has been emphasised.

In the cases discussed the verbs are intransitive. But a verb meaning 'hang loose', might easily develop transitive use in the sense 'throw' (cp. swing). Only in one dialect do we seem to have a certain example of this, namely in Nyland in Finland, as *flika*, undress hastily, e. g. *flika kläderna af sej, flika skjortan av någon med hast* (Rietz). We evidently have the same vb. in the form *fläka* (*fläkte kläderna af sig*) cited in *Dic. Sw. Acad.* for the year 1758. Cp. further, however, below.

We shall now note some other developments of the sememe 'aaben, gabende'. The point of departure is the act of opening the mouth, as 1), in laughing or grinning or, 2), in the act of eating. From the first of these uses have developed a very large number of derivatives. There is first N. d. *flika*, vb. 'grine', *flekkjful*, adj. 'given to mocking', *flekkj*, n. 'grinen, haanan', *fletkj*, m. one who mocks. Then we have the meanings 'jesting, bantering, mocking' (cp. the similar development in the verb *gapa* in Norw. d. e. g., *gapa*, vb. jeet, talk nonsense, *gap*, m. one who banters, talks silly nonsense). The words are: *flækje*, vb. 'fjase, gantes', *flekkj*, m. 'haanende spas', *gjaaraa flætkj*, 'make fun of', *fletkj*, m. one who mocks at everything, Sw. d. *flättja*, 'dårskap, onödigt tal', *flikkär*, vb. 'gäckas, göra narr af', *flikker*, n. 'gäckeri'. The adj. *fläka-blii*, N. d. 'smidskeblid', given to saying pleasantries, already contains a new derived sememe: 'flattering', which appears especially in Swedish and Danish words, but is present in N. d. *flikabikkja*, m. 'særlig om den som indynder sig hos husbonden ved at sladdre paa medtjenere' (Ross). This is found in O. Sw. *flickra*, vb. 'smickra' and derived forms, see above p. 6.

Dan. d. *flegger*, m. 'flatterer', and derivatives, N. d. *fleka*, vb. ingratiate oneself, flatter, Sw. d. *flikker*, n. 'smicker'. From 'flatter' and 'ingratiate oneself' follows the use of the words in the meanings 'coax, wheedle, entice, caress', as in Sw. d. *fleka*, 'smeka', N. d. vb. do. *flekkjar*, m. 'sledsker', *flekkja*, f. 'mandfolk som er for familiær med kvindfolk;' *flikast*, res. vb. 'kjæles'; *flegg*, m. 'en nærgaaende person'. The last stage in the process of degeneration in meaning is illustrated by: *flækja*, f. 'kaad og uvorren kvinde'; Sw. d. *flik*, f. 'lättsinnig flicka;'; N. d. *fleikja*, f. 'flane;'; *flikju*, f. 'forfløien kvinde'; Icel. *flik*, f. 'mulier impudica'. With the group of formations we have just considered belongs also *flijk*, vb. 'slarfva, slubber' as applied to slovenly manner of eating or drinking, the point of departure being the keeping the mouth open in the act of eating.

Finally there is a group of words represented by *flekkja*, f. 'a fast worker' (Southw. Norway), which would not seem to have any direct connection with any of the meanings we have considered. Cp., however, Icel. *flika*, 'negligenter tractare', and Sw. d. *fika kläderna af sig*. The original meaning of the vb. is, therefore, 'to move rapidly', and as a transitive, 'to tear something off' or 'throw something about one rapidly'. This sense we find in N. d. *flekkja*, vb. 'drive stærkt paa, rive arbeidet fra sig', whence the personal noun *flekkja*, f., 'en rivar, rask arbeider'.

GEORGE T. FLOM.